

What is claimed is:

1. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver, comprising:

a shutter frame;

5 at least one louver having left and right ends and mounted in said shutter frame for rotation about a pivot axis;

at least one louver mounting pin mounted along the pivot axis of the louver and projecting out one of said ends of said louver;

a receptacle on said shutter frame which receives said projecting

10 louver mounting pin; and

a band brake element mounted over said pin and inside said receptacle, said band brake element applying a radially inwardly directed force against said louver mounting pin.

15 2. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 1,

wherein said band brake element has first and second ends, and said receptacle defines a stop for stopping the rotation of at least one of said brake element ends so as to increase frictional resistance to rotation of said mounting pin as said mounting pin begins to rotate.

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3. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 2,

wherein said receptacle further defines a second stop for stopping the rotation of the other of said brake element ends.

4. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 2,
wherein said band brake element is a coil spring which compresses radially
5 inwardly against the pin and wherein said first and second brake element ends
project outwardly.

5. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 3,
wherein said second stop for stopping the rotation of the other of said brake
10 element ends limits said increase of frictional resistance to rotation between said
band brake element and said mounting pin.

6. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver, comprising:
a shutter frame;
15 a plurality of louvers pivotably mounted for rotation inside said frame and
about an axis of rotation; and
means for progressively increasing the resistance to said rotation as said
louvers are rotated about said axis.

20 7. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 6,
wherein each of said louvers includes left and right outwardly projecting mounting
pins, which define an axis of rotation; and wherein said means for increasing the
resistance to said rotation includes at least one band brake mounted on the

shutter frame, surrounding its respective mounting pin, and applying a radially inwardly-directed force to resist the rotation of said respective mounting pin.

8. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 7,
5 wherein said band brake has at least one end and said shutter frame defines a receptacle having a stop which stops said one end as said band brake begins to rotate with its respective mounting pin, causing an increase in said inwardly-directed force.

10 9. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 6, and further comprising means for limiting said progressive increase in said resistance to a set maximum, wherein the user can still rotate said louvers by overcoming said maximum resistance.

15 10. A brake arrangement for a shutter louver as recited in claim 7, and further comprising means for limiting said progressive increase in said resistance to a set maximum, wherein the user can still rotate said louvers by overcoming said maximum resistance, wherein said means for limiting said progressive increase includes said band brake having a second end, and said receptacle
20 having a second stop, which stops the rotation of said second end.